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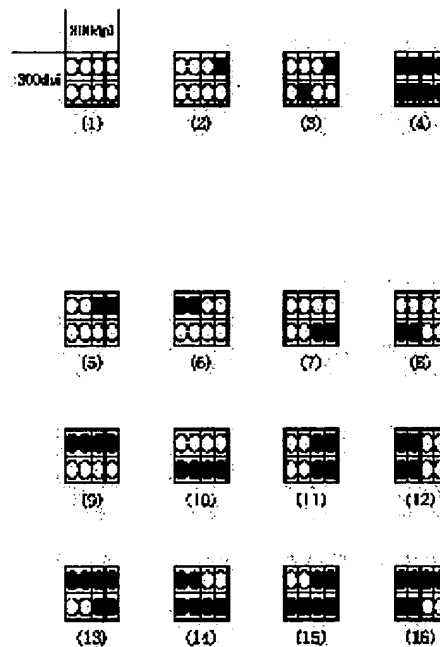
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(54) DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING IMAGE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To improve the gradation of color images and black images and to smooth the contour part of characters and lines, etc., while suppressing the capacity increase of a storage medium by outputting image data provided with a quantized picture element pattern and a picture element pattern for smoothing images as picture element information.

SOLUTION: A quantization means for quantizing color multi-valued input image data to more than ternary image data and a smoothing means for correction-controlling the quantized image data and smoothing the images are provided and the color images constituted of only quantized picture elements and the black images constituted of the quantized picture elements and the picture elements for smoothing the images by the smoothing means are provided. The quantization level number of the color images is made larger than the black images and the black images are provided with the picture elements for which the patterns inside the picture elements are made common for the quantized picture elements and the picture elements for smoothing the images. Thus, without the need of the data capacity of a lot of the picture elements, the gradation is improved and the smoothness of black characters is improved.



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